

MARY HOPPER, WIDOW OF JOHN A. HOPPER.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 645.]

APRIL 13, 1860.

Mr. POTTER, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Mary Hopper, widow of John A. Hopper, for a revolutionary pension, submit the following report:*

That the petitioner in her statement, under oath, declares that her husband was a captain for several years in the revolution; that she was married to him on the 11th day of September, 1779, and that he died in 1824. The deposition of the claimant is supported by a mass of parol testimony, among which are the neighbors and fellow-soldiers of Captain Hopper, and several persons who were pensioners for simultaneous service in the revolution, all of whom corroborate the statement of his service as a captain for several years, and also testify to the destruction of his property by the British at Hoppertown, in New Jersey, because of his efficiency and zeal in the American cause.

The Secretary of State of New Jersey furnishes a certificate of a payment to John A. Hopper for his services; and the marriage is clearly proven, by certified extracts from the family records, to have been solemnized on the 11th September, 1779.

It is a matter of historical notoriety that this portion of New Jersey (Bergen county) was, from its proximity to New Jersey city, kept in almost constant alarm, and the militia nearly all the time under arms; but the records of the State furnish very meagre evidence of the service of its officers and soldiers during the war; and to exclude a case on the ground of want of record evidence would be to exclude many who performed long periods of service from the bounty intended for them by the acts of Congress.

The secretary of state of New Jersey furnishes the following copy of a certificate in his office:

"No. 167. Received, Morristown, November 21, 1778, of Joseph Lewis, seventeen pounds nine shillings, proc., in full, of bounty, due to my company of 23 men, of Col. Dey's regiment, at Acquacknock, under command of Brigadier General Winds, from the 23d September

to 12th October last, for which I have this day given duplicate receipts.

(£17 9s.)

“JOHN HOPPER, *Captain.*”

The secretary of state also certifies to a payment of £48 to Captain Hopper, of Dey's Bergen regiment, of 12th October, 1778, in Book B, Auditor's Accounts, p. 63.

Your committee are fully satisfied that the evidence in this case fully sustains the claim for more than two years' service as captain, and they therefore report a bill for the relief of Mary Hopper, with the recommendation that it do pass.